

1 **14-5121. Ignorance or mistake of law.¹**

2 Evidence has been presented that the defendant was [ignorant of] [mistaken about] the law
3 which [~~he~~] the defendant is accused of violating. When a person voluntarily does that which the
4 law forbids and declares to be a crime, it is no defense that [~~he~~] the person did not know that [~~his~~]
5 the act was unlawful or that [~~he~~] the person believed it to be lawful.

6 USE NOTES

7 1. No instruction on this subject shall be given.

8 [As amended by Supreme Court Order No. S-1-RCR-2025-00126, effective for all cases pending
9 or filed on or after December 31, 2025.]

10 **Committee commentary.** — The committee found no reported New Mexico decisions on the
11 problem of the defendant who is ignorant of the law. As a general proposition, the problem of
12 ignorance of the law arises primarily in the context of criminal intent. *See generally* Perkins,
13 Criminal Law 923 (2d ed. 1969). Consequently, a provision is included in the general criminal
14 intent UJI 14-141. For the exceptions to the general rule that ignorance of the law is no defense,
15 *see generally* Perkins, *supra*, at 925.